for those sports personalities, to encourage them and to develop their sports career to the international standards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Though the talented sportspersons from remote hilly & tribal areas are inducted in National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC). SAI Training Centres (STC) and Centre of Excellence (COX) schemes of SAI, it is the Special Area Games (SAG) scheme which is specially focussed on talent scouting and nurturing of genetically gifted children from remote, hilly, costal and tribal areas of the country. The scheme also envisages tapping of talent from indigenous games and martial arts and from the regions which are either genetically or geographically advantageous for excellence in a particular sports discipline.

Sports Academies in H.P.

1189. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for setting up sports academies in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, at which places such academies are being set up; and

(c) by when the proposals would materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The State Sports Academies Scheme is yet to be finalised by the Government.

Financial Assisance to Meritorious Sports Persons

1190. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the sad state of affairs of many retired sports person who had represented India at the national /international levels;

(b) if so, whether Government have floated any scheme to help them; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any provision for development of meritorious players at the national and international levels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the criteria being followed for providing financial assistance to such players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. From time to time proposals are received from the outstanding sportspersons of yesteryears living in indigent conditions for financial assistance

(b) Yes, Sir. Under the following schemes, Government provides financial assistance to the outstanding/meritorious sportspersons:—

(i) National Welfare Fund For Sportspersons: Under the scheme, Government gives monthly pensions upto Rs. 2500/- and one time lump-sum financial assistance upto Rs. 40,000/- for medical treatment to the retired sportspersons who have represented the country at national/international levels and living in indigent circumstances, i.e. whose monthly income is less than Rs. 3,000/- from all sources.

(ii) Sports Fund for Meritorious Sports Persons: Under the scheme, meritorious sportspersons who have won medals in Olympic Games and Gold medal in World Cups/World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines are sanctioned monthly pensions @ Rs. 2500/- Silver and Bronze medallists of World Cups/World Championships in Olympic and Asian Games disciplines and Commonwealth Games are sanctioned pension @ Rs. 2000/- per month. Pension is sanctioned from the age of 30 years for lifetime.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to prepare the sportspersons to compete at National & International level, Government provides Financial Assistance to the various National Sports Federations and Sportspersons under the following scheme:

(i) Assistance to National Sports Federations: Under this scheme National Sports Federations are provided financial assistance for organization of National Coaching Camps, participation of athletes in International tournaments and engagement of foreign coaches and experts for meritorious sportspersons of National and International levels.

(ii) Assistance to Promising Sports Persons and Supporting Personnel:— Under this scheme financial assistance upto Rs. 5 lakhs is sanctioned

to a promising sports person, who has equaled or excelled the existing national record or is a gold medallist of last National Championship or is a medallist of Asian/Commonwealth Games/Afro-Asian Games/ Olympic Games/World Championship in different sports disciplines for undergoing training abroad, purchase of sports equipment, obtaining scientific support, and for training and participation in tournaments in the country. To get the assistance under the scheme, promising sports persons should not be more than 25 years of age. For sports like shooting, golf, billiards and snooker, chess and yachting the age limit may be relaxed upto 35 years.

(iii) National Sports Development Funds:—Meritorious Sports persons seeking assistance under the scheme are also provided Financial Assistance for training.

Disallowance of Indian Body Builder at Busan

1191. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's sole body-building competitor was disallowed to participate at the Busan Asian Games;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that officials of the Body Building Association of India had not allowed him to participate in the competition; and

(d) what exactly transpired between the athlete and the Association at Busan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHAN): (a) to (d): On the recommendation of the Indian Olympic Association, Government had approved the participation of four Indian body builders in XIV AsianGames held at Busan. Indian Body Building Federation (IBBF) has informed that as one of the body builders, Shri Dinesh Aswal had violated the rules of Asian Body Building Federation (ABBF), the IBBF had informed his employer, Railway Sports Promotion Board, about his non-inclusion in the Indian Team participating in the Busan Asian Games. But without taking cognizance of the same, Shri Aswal obtained 'Stay orders' from the Hon'ble High Court and came to Busan, on this own. As such, officials of IBBF requested ABBF officials to allow Shri Aswal to participate in the Games, which however, was not acceded to by ABBF on the ground that Shri Aswal had